

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

OMB-01 ABF-01 DRC-01 /152 W
----- 111019

R 101919Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0271

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05872

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY, UK

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTIONS

REF: STATE 91875

SUMMARY: BRITISH ARE CONSIDERING OUR VIEWS ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS. THEY SUGGEST MOST PRACTICAL JOINT AIM IN MAY 29 MEETING MIGHT BE TO MOVE SYG OFF POSITION THAT HE WOULD NEED NEW SC MANDATE TO MAKE CUTS BEYOND PHASE II. FCO OFFICIALS ARE BEING CAUTIOUS. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT MINISTERS WOULD BUY FURTHER REDUCTION AS ECONOMY MOVE, PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT SCARED BY ANY NEW DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS THREATENING RESURGENCE OF SERIOUS INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. FURTHER MASSAGING IS CALLED
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FOR. END SUMMARY.

1. WE MADE APPROACH ON UNFICYP REDUCTIONS TO FCO'S ACTING SOUTH EUROPEAN DEPT. HEAD BAKER MAY 10. WE HAD FIRST ASCERTAINED THAT ASST. UNDERSECRETARY WIGGIN WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY IF WE MADE PRESENTATION TO HIM. HOWEVER, HE TOLD BAKER TO SAY THAT FCO'S FIRST INCLINATION WOULD BE TO LET MATTERS STAND AS THEY ARE UNTIL EVERYBODY SAW HOW PHASE II WORKED OUT.

2. WE EXPLAINED THAT LETTING PHASE II RUN ITS COURSE WAS MUCH LESS THAN WHAT WE HAD IN MIND. BAKER LISTENED TO ARGUMENTS IN PARA 3 REFTEL (WHICH WE LEFT WITH HIM AS "BOUT DE PAPIER") AND TOOK EXCEPTION TO OUR JUDGMENT THAT THERE IS A "DECLINING RISK OF LARGER SCALE INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE". HE THOUGHT THAT HARD TO PROVE, AND THE CONTRARY JUST AS LIKELY. WE AGREED POINT CAN BE ARGUED BUT SUGGESTED IT IS NOT THE MAIN ARGUMENT. MAIN ARGUMENT IS THAT UN CONTINUING TO SLIP INTO DEFICIT OVER FORCE WHICH IS LARGER THAN IT NEED BE FOR OBSERVER/MEDIATOR JOB IT DOES BUT TOO SMALL FOR ACTIVE PEACEKEEPING FUNCTION. COMPETITION FOR FUNDS WITH UNEF ALSO NEW ARGUMENT. BAKER DID NOT QUARREL.

3. WE EXPLAINED OUR PRESENT INTENTION TO SOUND OUT CONTRIBUTORS RATHER THAN LEAD WITH SPECIFIC PLAN. WE HOPED OTHERS MIGHT HAVE IDEAS WHICH WE COULD SUPPORT. BAKER ASCERTAINED THAT WE WERE AIMING TOWARD DISCUSSION OF FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN CONTEXT OF MAY 29 SC MEETING. HE SUGGESTED OUR JOINT AIM MIGHT BE TO MOVE SYG OFF POSITION THAT WE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING FURTHER WITHOUT NEW MAN-DATE. BAKER THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT IN COUPLE OF WEEKS REMAINING PRIOR TO MAY 29 (AND NOTING THAT SYG'S REPORT UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE BEFORE MAY 22) FOR US TO GET SUFFICIENT PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT REDUCTIONS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO MOVE SYG OFF POSITION ON WHICH HE SEEMS TO BE DIGGING IN. WE AGREED, POINTING OUT USG MAY HAVE FURTHER IDEAS OVER NEXT TWO WEEKS.

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4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT IF AND WHEN IT CAME TO A CRUNCH HMG MINISTERS WOULD GO FOR ECONOMIES ASSOCIATED WITH FURTHER PARING OF UNFICYP PROVIDED THERE WERE NO NEW DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS THREATENING RESURGENCE OF SERIOUS INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. IN LATTER EVENT, MINISTERS WOULD REQUIRE GOOD DEAL MORE PUSHING
--- SINCE THERE IS A
TENDENCY TO ARGUE HYPOTHETICALLY ABOUT CYPRIOT MENTALITY

IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND MINISTERS WOULD BE ATTRACTED
BY ARGUMENT THAT LARGER UNFICYP IS BETTER THAN SMALLER
ONE, WHATEVER MAY BE THE FINE POINTS RELATING TO
UNFICYP'S MANDATE AND FORCE'S CAPABILITY.

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